



**Note of the meeting of the Advisory Board for Bath Neighbourhood CIL
held on Monday, 13th November, 2023
in Brunswick Room - Guildhall, Bath**

Meeting Attendance

In Attendance

Councillor Lucy Hodge (Chair)

Councillor Deborah Collins

Councillor Joanna Wright

Councillor Ruth Malloy

Councillor Joel Hirst

Councillor George Tomlin

Mark Hayward

Dave Dixon

Apologies Received from

Councillor Jess David

Councillor Onkar Saini

1. Welcome and Introductions

Apologies were recorded for Councillor Jess David and Councillor Onkar Saini.

The Advisory Board discussed how members should raise any conflict of interests. It was agreed that members of the Advisory Board need to self-declare for any project where they have local links. It was felt it would be necessary for members only to remove themselves from a decision if they are directly involved with a project application.

The Advisory Board asked that officers set up a small working group with members to carry out a review for, the application form questions and layout and the framework and criteria detail within the terms of reference.

Aim to complete the review before the next round of applications open at the end of January 2024.

The Advisory Board asked that future reports on consultation align with the application numbers and the finance report is produced in an easier to read format.

2. Bath CIL Financial Position - November 2023

The amount of CIL for Bath that is available to allocate by the Advisory Board is £323,608.

The Advisory Board have the option not to allocate the full amount available at this meeting.

The Advisory Board are not allowed to agree funding that is over and above what is currently available.

Where funding is being agreed for multiple years, this must be either agreed as a total amount that will be delivered across the agreed period or an offer can be made to commit funds for a lesser period than requested.

3. Community Consultation

The Advisory Board recognised that total of 203 responses were received from the consultation held on the council's website and via e-mail. These submissions were made between October 24th and November 1st, 2023.

The point was raised that the consultation is useful and acts as a guide to the Advisory Board. It is however recognised that multiple submissions are made by groups that are in support of certain projects.

4. Ascent Climbing Centre

Ascent Climbing applied for funding to set up and establish a new climbing centre at Sulis Club, located at Claverton Down Road, Bath.

The Advisory Board discussed the project and raised several concerns.

- They noted that there have been no successful planning applications approved yet.
- They suggested that a more specific request for a smaller sum should be made, focusing on a community aspect rather than the overall project.
- They also questioned the decision to fund a new commercial project, expressing concerns about adding to the profit margin of a commercial company.
- They felt that the project, while valuable for exercise, may not be the right fit for neighbourhood CIL funding.
- They also mentioned that it is unclear what aspect of our contribution would fund.
- They pointed out that the location is on the outskirts of the city, requiring people to drive, as indicated by the level of investment in the car park.
- They emphasised that the project has not received enough guaranteed funding at the current stage, which poses a risk of the funding being absorbed but the project failing.
- It is worth noting that only one member of the board supported the project, while five others were against it at this stage.

There were several favourable points made during the discussion.

- Firstly, it was noted that Bath does not have anything similar to this project, which would make it highly appealing to young people.

- Additionally, it was acknowledged that a project of this nature would require a certain level of funding to initiate.
- Finally, it was suggested that the applicant could potentially revisit the proposal at a later stage, requesting a reduced amount that would specifically cover a particular community aspect.

After careful consideration, it has been determined that no funding will be allocated at this time.

5. Bath City Pitch

Bath City Football Club is seeking £150,000 in funding to install a FIFA Quality PRO all-weather pitch at Twerton Park stadium in the ward of Twerton.

During the Advisory Board meeting, several points were raised regarding the project.

- There is widespread support for this application, contingent upon securing the necessary additional funding.
- There was a concern about the levels of plastic in the pitch and its potential impact on the climate emergency declaration.
- It was acknowledged that pitches have improved, but it was emphasised that it is difficult to gauge the level of community activity without a pitch of this quality.
- There was confusion regarding the funding amount requested, as it appeared to exceed the balance required after considering agreed and expected funding.
- It was noted that this bid was an improvement compared to previous ones, particularly in terms of the detailed explanation of the 38 hours of community use.
- There was a call for an agreement on a minimum level of free community use.
- Additionally, clarification was sought on whether the funding would remain separate from the other club finances.
- While it was recognized that football clubs at this level face financial pressures, assurance was requested regarding the club's sound financial position.
- Some clubs that have had quick success and gained several promotions have not then had the correct standard of pitch. Is there any risk of this happening with this club?

The Advisory Board unanimously supported a conditional offer of £75,000 for the project.

6. Odd Down Sports Facilities - GLL

GLL aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity by extending and refurbishing Odd Down Sports Ground. with a Bath CIL Contribution of £217,622.29 being sought.

Cllr Joel Hirst declared an interest as this project falls inside his ward.

During the Advisory Board meeting, several points were raised regarding the project.

- No planning permission has been agreed at this stage.
- Residents have expressed concerns about the expansion.
- The question was raised regarding the timing of this application coming to the neighbourhood CIL, considering that Strategic CIL had already contributed £50K. It is unclear why the full funding need was not met through this route. The amount of funding

being sought is deemed too high. It would be more favourable to identify a smaller aspect that can be costed out as a single commitment.

- An application could be resubmitted once planning is in place and a lower cost area of need is identified.

It was unanimously recommended that no funding would be awarded to this project.

7. Whiteway Green Play Equipment

Curo Housing Group is currently seeking funding in the amount of £40,000 for the installation of swings, toddler equipment, flooring, and the enhancement of an existing park.

During the Advisory Board meeting, several points were raised regarding the project.

- There was strong support for projects of this nature.
- The maintenance costs are met by Curo going forward.
- It would be good to see suitable equipment for older children.
- Additional benches in the park would be welcomed.

The Advisory Board unanimously recommended an offer of £40,000 for this project.

8. World Heritage Funding

"The Bath World Heritage Enhancement Fund is a partnership between the World Heritage Site Advisory Board, B&NES Council and Bath Preservation Trust."

Councillor Ruth Malloy declared an interest as she is a member of the World Heritage Panel.

During the discussion on this application, the following points were raised:

- The Council has historically funded Bath Preservation Trust with £20,000 for the World Heritage Fund.
- The Council agreed to discontinue this funding from this year and suggested that CIL could be a possible alternative.
- Bath Preservation Trust contributes £5,000 a year to the WHEF, and in recent years the Council has contributed £20,000 a year (previously £25,000).
- The application has been submitted for five years of funding.
- The work carried out by Bath Preservation Trust has a positive impact on the city.
- It is recommended to support this application as Bath is a Heritage City.
- Bath Preservation Trust has the expertise to prioritise and propose necessary work.
- Three years is considered a more realistic funding period, rather than five years.
- If CIL is still available, an additional bid will be considered before the expiration of this funding offer.
- These projects will focus on improving the city public realm.

There was further discussion that set out how the panel felt the projects put forward by Bath Preservation Trust are agreed:

- Projects need to be listed on a provided form and submitted to the Bath CIL Advisory Board for their recommendations.
- It is advised that the list of projects be prioritised and include a full range of options for consideration.
- The Advisory Board recommendations will be included in the single member decision (SMD) and funding will only be released after the SMD is finalised.
- Funding must be committed within each individual year and cannot be carried forward.

The Advisory Board agreed unanimously that total funding of £60,000 will be set aside, this will be £20,000 for each of the next three years.

9. Weston Library

Weston Community Library (operating as Love Weston Library) is seeking £27,100 in funding in order to carry out necessary refurbishments and cover rental costs for the next decade.

Councillor Ruth Malloy declared an interest as this project falls into her ward and she volunteers at the library.

The panel were supportive of this project as it is a valuable resource that delivers a great deal to the community and is good value for money.

The Advisory Board unanimously supported a conditional offer of £27,100 for the project. This will need to necessitate final legal agreement on providing funding for the lease rent costs.

10. Student Community Wardens

The Student Community Partnership requires funding to maintain the current level of support provided by a Community Warden and Administrator.

During the Advisory Board meeting, the following points were raised regarding the project:

- Retaining the current posts is crucial to preserve the accumulated experience of the past three years.
- The partnership should ensure equal sharing of longer-term funding between the council and other partners.
- It was suggested to explore the possibility of other partnership members contributing.
- It was proposed that future requests should consider contributing only a third towards the two posts.
- The value brought by the two posts is significant, as they contribute to the council's cost reduction through preventive schemes.

The Advisory Board unanimously recommended a one-year offer of £47,000 for the project.

11. Bath Allotments

The application was initially declined due to legal advice on Bath CIL usage. A meeting was held with the applicant. It was decided that the Advisory Board would be asked for a view on accepting an amended application.

Councillor Joanna Wright declared an interest as she knows the applicant for this project.

During the Advisory Board meeting, the following points were raised regarding the project:

- Some allotment users are not fully supportive of the original project.
- Water provision on allotments is switched off during the winter.
- Certain allotment plots are very difficult to get water to.
- The Board is struggling to understand why the application for infrastructure improvement was turned down, as it would benefit future plot users and increase the ability to grow food.
- The revisions to the original application suggest increasing site capacity by creating smaller plots, trialling a starter micro plot project, and focusing on communal projects rather than individual plots.
- The Advisory Board acknowledges that any offer made will be subject to obtaining additional legal advice and reaching a mutually agreed upon plan to take this recommendation forward.

The Advisory Board unanimously recommended that a conditional offer of £14,000 for one year of costs.

12. Future Meeting Dates

The Advisory Board will meet to make recommendations on the next round of applications on 3rd June 2024.